

Vic Atiyeh's leadership in transforming Oregon's economy was critical as his swearing-in came just as Oregon entered an economic nosedive the likes of which unseen since the Great Depression.

How bad was the situation? His first year in office, Governor Atiyeh called a special legislative session to deal with a \$242 million budgetary shortfall. Just as he and the legislature agreed on a package of budget cuts, they were presented with new estimates increasing the shortfall by nearly \$100 million. Several months later, the deficit jumped again by another \$100 million.

Tough and unpleasant decisions had to be made. Vic Atiyeh rolled up his sleeves and made them. One of Oregon's most respected journalists, Brent Walth, wrote:

Quietly, diligently, without whining or badgering or a single "I told you so," Atiyeh demonstrated how to manage a state through a crisis.

As a tribute to Vic's leadership, and the wisdom of Oregonians, in the darkest days of the recession he was re-elected Governor by one of the largest margins in our State's history.

I can't help but think that at the naming of the international concourse, Vic Atiyeh will be thinking of his parents. Both Vic's father and mother were immigrants from the Middle East. They made their way first to Ellis Island, and then on to Oregon where in 1900 they started a family-owned carpet business—a business that continues to thrive today. I also know that Vic will be thinking about his wonderful wife Delores, who from the beginning has helped Vic to remember his priorities as a public servant, dedicated father, and husband.

A few years ago I invited a small contingent of Oregon leaders to join me for a breakfast to discuss issues important to our State. Vic called to say he would like to attend, but had a prior engagement: attending his granddaughter's soccer game. I assured Vic that I agreed, he was making exactly the right decision.

Mr. President, I am proud to call Vic Atiyeh my friend, and I am delighted the International Concourse at Portland International Airport will soon bear his name. While I will be here in Washington at the Senate on July 18, my thoughts and best wishes will be with one of Oregon's truly great gentlemen—Governor Vic Atiyeh.●

ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE AUDREY

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, June 27, 2007, marks the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Audrey, which ravaged Cameron Parish in southwest Louisiana. It was the deadliest storm our Nation had ever experienced until Hurricane Katrina came ashore in 2005.

Hurricane Audrey was a hurricane like no one had ever seen before in south Louisiana. Some residents rode out the fierce category 4 storm in the

Cameron Parish Courthouse, where a memorial service was held today. More than 400 lives were lost—men, women and children.

Don Kingery describes the wrath of Hurricane Audrey in today's Lake Charles American Press:

Cameron Parish residents swam, clung, gasped and prayed. Those who reached cheniers—ridges slightly higher than the surrounding marshes found fear-crazed water moccasins and wild marsh animals snapping and striking at each other and at humans.

But the people of Cameron Parish and southwest Louisiana are resilient. We rebuilt our homes, our schools, our churches, our communities.

In September 2005, Hurricane Rita, the third worst hurricane our nation has ever seen, struck this same coast. Once again, the people of Cameron have shown unbelievable resilience—again, returning to their homes and rebuilding, literally, from the ground up. The Cameron Courthouse again managed to survive a devastating hurricane and truly became a symbol of strength and hope for the Parish. Every Cameron resident who suffered through Rita is linked by family and community to Audrey's survivors and victims.

Today is an opportunity to look back and remember Audrey and the lives lost, but also to look forward to a better, more vibrant community in the years ahead. At the Cameron Courthouse today, survivors shared with the younger generation their many vivid stories. We will take these stories and lessons from Audrey, learn from them and grow from them.

Today, I want the Senate to recognize the National Guard, Civil Air Patrol and American Red Cross, all of which worked so bravely 50 years ago in the wake of Hurricane Audrey, helping to bring Cameron Parish back to its feet.

I would also like to recognize BG Robert LeBlanc, who spoke at the memorial service in Cameron today. He formed the first Louisiana National Guard unit in Abbeville. In the aftermath of Audrey, he helped command the evacuation. He is now the Vermillion Parish director of homeland security and emergency preparedness and was recently inducted into the Louisiana National Guard Hall of Fame.

For the record, I want to honor Cameron Parish President Darryl Farque and Sheriff Theos Duhon as well as their 1957 counterparts: Parish President Eraste Hebert and Sheriff O.B. Carter.

Nola Mae Ross and Cathy Post also deserve recognition today, as their books on Hurricane Audrey will ensure future generations will never forget that fateful June day in 1957.●

HONORING FRANCIS CREE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a friend and distinguished North Dakotan, Francis Cree, who passed away on June 15 at the age of 86.

Francis Cree was a highly respected Ojibwe elder of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa of North Dakota. He was the official pipe carrier for the tribe, a position of honor and leadership. He led the tribe as chairman in the 1960s and served several terms on tribal council. Francis spent countless hours teaching young people about Ojibwe culture and traditions. He was also a singer, a crafter and artist, a spiritual leader, a carver of pipes, and a keeper of the ceremonial drum for the Dunseith community. On November 8, 2001, we had the honor here in the Senate of being led in opening prayer by Francis. It was indeed a proud day for Francis and his family.

Francis was married to Rose Cree, herself a well-known artist who made beautiful willow baskets, several of which were featured at the Smithsonian's Festival of American Folk Life on The Mall here in our Nation's Capital. The Crees collaborated on these baskets. Both collected the materials, while Francis made the frames from ash, and Rose wove the willows. In 2002, Francis and Rose received the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, which recognizes the significant contributions of American folk artists.

Francis was a kind, humble, and generous man. He gave selflessly and never expected or wanted anything in return. Francis and Rose raised 14 children and opened their hearts and home to many more. They were also proud grandparents to more than 100 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and many, many great-great grandchildren. Each and every one of them is a reflection of Francis's caring and endearing spirit.

Mr. President, this is a tremendous loss for the Cree family, but it is also an incredible loss to North Dakota and the Nation. Francis's life and the legacy he leaves behind is truly an inspiration to us all.

HONORING J. CLEVELAND CADY

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the contributions of a New Yorker with North Dakota ties—J. Cleveland Cady.

A few weeks ago while reading the New York Times, I happened across an article that referenced Mr. Cady's contributions to Manhattan's architecture. Mr. Cady was a prominent architect in New York during the late 1800s. He designed the American Museum of Natural History as well as the original Metropolitan Opera House. He also designed a significant portion of a fairly notable institution we know today as Yale University.

This article caught my eye because of a special connection between Mr. Cady and the State of North Dakota.

Early in the last century, a young North Dakotan named William Langer was attending a concert during his time at Columbia University when he noticed a beautiful woman sitting below him on the orchestra level. According to the William Langer Papers